

City SG - January 20-21, 2018

Bible Story: Who Are You? (Who do you say that I am?) • *Matthew 16:13-20*

Bottom Line: Practice talking about God.

Memory Verse: “Training the body has some value. But being godly has value in every way. It promises help for the life you are now living and the life to come.” *1 Timothy 4:8, NIV*

1. Getting to Know You

What You Need: Yarn or string (one roll per group); scissors (1 per group)

What You Do:

- Gather kids in a circle and cut the yarn/string into different sized pieces. Make sure the smallest is at least 12 inches in length.
- Pass out a piece of string to each kid.
- Instruct the kids to take turns wrapping the string around their finger (not so tightly they cut off circulation, though) as they tell the group something about themselves.

What You Say:

“After this little exercise, you learned a few more things about one another. We can learn a lot about God from His Word too!”

2. Who Do YOU Say I Am?

What You Need: “Word Bubble Comic Strips” Activity Pages (one per kid), markers, Bibles

What You Do:

- Place kids in groups of two or three with a Bible and help them find Matthew 16:13-20 in the New Testament.
- Pass out the “Word Bubble Comic Strips” Activity Pages and markers.
- Encourage the kids to read Matthew 16:13-20 aloud in their groups.
- Instruct them to draw a word bubble over the character in each section of the comic strip.
- Inside the word bubbles in the first three comic book sections, kids should write in the names of Jesus that the disciples listed. (*John the Baptist, Elijah, Jeremiah or other prophets*)
- Discuss how those were men were prophets—men who spoke for God—but those answers were incorrect.
- Encourage the kids to write in Peter’s answer: “The Son of God” or “Messiah” in the last section of the comic strip.

What You Say:

“The people who met Jesus weren’t always sure who He was. Some thought He was just a prophet. Some thought He was a gifted teacher who knew the Scriptures better than anyone. Some thought He was a healer who could perform amazing miracles. All of these things are true. Jesus WAS a prophet who spoke for God. He was a gifted teacher and a healer. But He was more than that. Jesus came so that we could know God. Jesus came to be our Savior! He came to fix our sin problem so that we could have a relationship with God forever. Peter knew who Jesus was, and you and I do too! We need to be ready to tell others about Jesus, God’s only Son, and to tell them about our heavenly Father, who gave His Son for us! We need to **[Bottom Line] practice talking about God.**”

[Make It Personal] (Tell the kids about a time when you told someone else about Jesus or you invited them with you to church. What happened? Would you say that it gets easier as you practice talking to others about God? Why or why not?)

3. What's Your Name?

What You Need: Blank nametags (one per kid), markers

What You Do:

- Pass out a nametag and a marker to each kid.
- Pair kids up. Without letting their neighbor see what they're writing, instruct the kids to write, "Jesus is _____," and fill in the blank on their nametags.
- When they're finished writing, instruct kids to place their completed nametag on their partner's back, being careful not to let their partner see what it says.
- Let the kids mingle and find a new partner.
- The new partners will look at each other's nametags and then give clues to help each other figure out what is written on their nametags.
- Make sure to mingle among the kids and help with clue giving where needed.
- Tell the kids that when both partners have identified their nametags, they should have a seat.
- Once all kids are seated, gather them in a circle and have the kids stick their nametags on the front of their shirts (partners may need to help with this).
- Encourage the kids to keep their nametags and challenge them to tell ONE person something about God.

What You Say:

"When it comes to talking about God, it takes practice. Jesus is our SAVIOR! Jesus came to be our Messiah and to pay the price for our sin even when we didn't deserve it. And we can have a relationship with God forever when we choose to trust in Jesus. That is GOOD news that everyone needs to hear. You can always pray and ask God to help you know what to say as you talk to your friends and family about Him. And each time you do, you'll see that it becomes easier and easier. Let's make a commitment together to share what we've written on our nametags with someone else this week and to ***[Bottom Line]*** practice talking about God."

4. Memory Verse Switch

What You Need: Bibles, a playground ball (one per group)

What You Do:

- Ask for a volunteer to look up and read this month's memory verse: 1 Timothy 4:8.
- Gather the kids in a circle as you stand in the center and say the verse together as a group.
- Instruct the kids to pass the ball around the circle as they say the verse, one word at a time. Your job is to help them with the next word if they get stuck.
- Once they've recited the verse a couple of times, yell, "SWITCH," in the middle of the verse.
- When that happens, the kids must reverse the direction of the ball.
- Continue reciting the verse and calling "SWITCH" as time and interest allow.

What You Say:

"Great job! You had to really listen and pay attention so you could keep up with the direction of the ball and the next word of the verse. Training the body is important, but growing in our faith is SUPER important. One of the ways we grow is by telling others what we know about God."

We don't have to know EVERYTHING. In fact, it's impossible to know everything about God. But we can make a commitment to tell others what we DO know. We know God loves us, He made us, He sent Jesus to be our Savior, and He wants to have a relationship with us forever. And there are people around you—in your neighborhood, at school, on your ball teams, in your ballet class, maybe even in your own family—that need to hear about God too. So let's make a promise this week to ***[Bottom Line]*** practice talking about God.”

Pray and Dismiss

“Dear God, thank You so much for every single kid in this group. Thank You for all the things we've learned about You. Thank You for loving us and for sending Jesus so we could have a relationship with You. We want to tell others about You, so give us the courage to do that this week! We commit to letting others know how awesome You are. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.”

As adults arrive to pick up, hand out the “God Time” Sheets, and let kids know that if they bring it back the following week they will receive a prize.